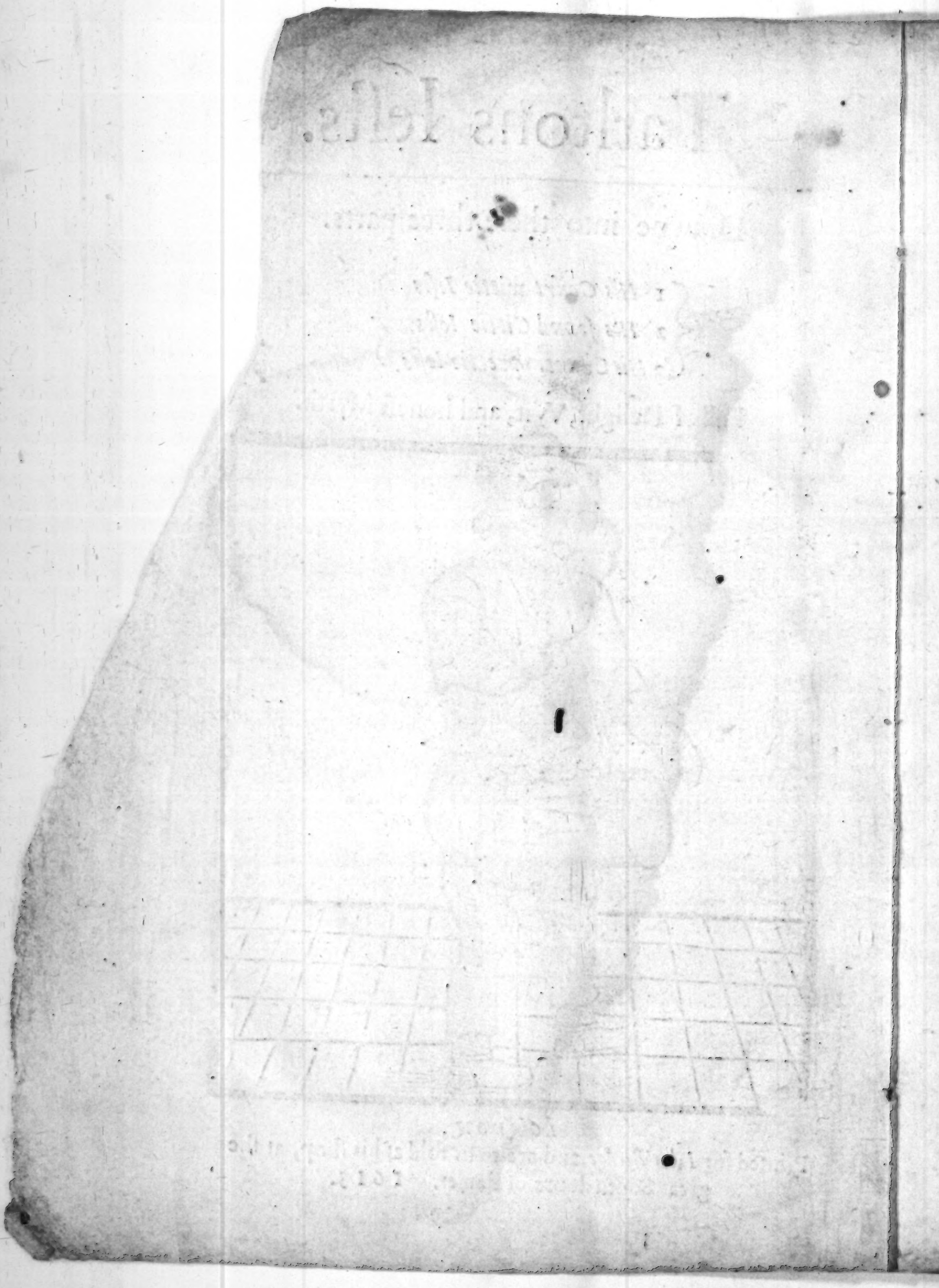
# Tarltons Iests.

Drawne into these three parts.

1 *His Court-wittie Iests*
2 *His sound Cittie Iests.*
3 *His Country prettie Iests.*

Full of Delight, Wit, and honest Myrth.

LONDON,
Printed for *John Budge*, and are to be sold at his shop, at the great South doore of Paules. 1613.



# Tarltons *Court wittie Ieſts*

## *Tarlton* plaid the Drunkard before the Queene.

THe Quéene being diſcontented: which Tarlton perceiuing, toke vpon him to delight her with ſome quaint Ieſt, whereupon he counterfaited a Drunkard, and calling for Béere, which was brought immediately: Her Maieſtie noting his humor, commanded that he ſhould haue no more, for quoth ſhe, he will play the beaſt, and ſo ſhame himſelfe. Feare not you quoth Tarlton, for your Béere is ſmall enough. Whereat her Maieſtie laughed heartily, and commanded that hee ſhould haue enough.

## How *Tarlton* deceiued the Watch in Fleetſtreet.

TArlton hauing beene late at the Court, and comming homewards through Fléetſtréet, hée eſpyed the watch, not knowing how to paſſe them, went very faſt, thinking by that meanes to goe vnexamined: but the Watch-men perceiuing that he ſhunned them, ſtept to him, and commanded him (in the Quéens name) to ſtand. Stand, quoth Tarlton, let them ſtand that can, for I cannot: ſo falling downe as though he had béene drunke, they helpt him vp, and ſo let him paſſe.



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# Tarltons Ieſts.

## How *Tarlton* flouted a Lady in the Court.

VPon a time, Tarlton being among certaine Ladies at a banquet which was at Grænwitch, the Quæne then lying there, one of the Ladies had her face full of pimples with beate at her ſtomacke, for which cauſe ſhe refuſed to drinke wine amongſt the reſt of the Ladies, which Tarlton perceiuing (for he was there of purpoſe to ieſt amongſt thē) quoth hee, a murren of that face which makes all the body fare the worſe for it. At which the reſt of the Ladies laught, and ſhe bluſhing for ſhame left the banquet.

## *Tarltons* opinion of Oyſters.

CErtaine Noblemen and Ladies of the Court, being eating of Oyſters, one of them ſeeing Tarlton, called him, and aſked if he loued Oyſters: No quoth Tarlton, for they be vngodly meat, vncharitable meat, & vnprofitable meate: why? quoth the Courtiers: they are vngodly, becauſe they are eaten without Grace: vncharitable, becauſe they leaue nought but ſhels: and vnprofitable, becauſe they muſt ſwim in wine.

## *Tarltons* reſolution of a queſtion.

ONe of the company taking the Gentlemans part, aſked Tarlton at what time he thought the Deuil to be moſt buſied? When the Pope dyes quoth he: why ? ſayes the Courtier: Marry (anſwered he) then all the Diuels are troubled and buſied to plague him, for he hath ſent many a ſoules before him thither, that exclaime againſt him.

## How a Parſonage fell into *Tarltons* hands.

HEr Maieſty dining in the Strand at the Lord Treaſurers, the Lords were very deſirous that ſhe would vouch-

bouchſafe to ſtay all night, but nothing could preuaile with her: Tarlton was in his Clownes apparell, being all dinner while in the preſence with her, to make her merry, and hearing the ſorrow that the Noblemen made that they could not worke her ſtay, he asked the Nobles what they would giue him to worke her ſtay: the Lords promiſed him any thing, to performe it: quoth hee, procure me the Parſonage of Shard. They cauſed the Patent to be drawne preſently, he got on a Parſons gowne, and a corner cap, and ſtanding vpon the ſtaires where the Quéene ſhould deſcend, he repeated theſe words: a Parſon or no Parſon? a Parſon or no Parſon? but after ſhe knew his meaning, ſhe not onely ſtayed all night, but the next day willed he ſhould haue poſſeſſion of the benefice: a madder Parſon was neuer, for hee threatned to turne the Bel-mettel into lyning for his purſe, which hee did, the Parſonage and all, into ready money.

## How *Tarlton* proued two Gentlewomen diſhoneſt by their owne words.

TArlton ſéeing in Gréenwitch two Gentlewomen in the Garden together, to mone myrth, comes to them, and enquires thus: Gentlewomen, which of you two is the honeſter? I, ſaies the one, I hope without exceptions: and I quoth the other, ſince we muſt ſpeake for our ſelues: ſo then ſaies Tarlton, one of you by your owne words is diſhoneſt, one being honeſter then the other, elſe you would anſwere otherwiſe: but as I found you, ſo I leaue you.

## How *Tarlton* anſwered a wanton Gentlewoman.

A Gentlewoman merily diſpoſed, being croſt by Tarlton, & halfe angry, ſaid, ſirra, a little thing would make me requite you with a cuffe: with a cuffe Lady, ſayes Tarlton, ſo would you ſpel my ſorrow forward, but ſpell my ſorrow backward, then cuffe me and ſpare not: when the Gentle-



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men by, considered of the Word, their laughing made the simple-meaning Gentlewoman to blush for shame.

## How *Tarlton* dared a Lady.

AT the dinner in the great Chamber where Tarlton iested, the Ladies were daring one another: quoth one I euer durst any thing that is honest and honourable: a French crowne of that, sayes Tarlton: ten pound of that sayes the Lady: done sayes one, done sayes another. Tarlton put a two-pence betwixt his lips, and dared her to take it away with her lips. Fye saies she, that is immodestie. What, tokisse saies Tarlton: then immodesty beares a great hand ouer all: but once in your life say, you haue béene beaten at your owne weapon. Well sir, saies she, you may say any thing. Then sayes Tarlton, remember I say you dare not, and so my wager is good.

## How *Tarlton* landed at Cuckolds hauen.

TArlton being one Sunday at Court all day, caused a payre of Oares to tend him, who at night called on him to be gone: Tarlton being a carousing, drunke so long to the Watermen, that one of them was bumpsie, and so indéed were all three for the most part: at last they left Grénwich, the Tide being at a great low fall, the Watermen yet afraid of the crosse Cables by the Lime-house: very darke and late as it was, landed Tarlton at Cuckolds-hauen, and said the next day they would giue him a reason for it: But Tarlton was faine to goe by land to Redriffe on the durty banke, euery step knée déepe: so that comming home, hee called one of his boyes to helpe him off with his boots, meaning his stockings, which were dyed of another colour. Whereupon one gaue him this Theame next day.

*Tarlton* tell me, for faine would I know,
If thou wert landed at Culckolds-hauen or no?

*Tarlton*

*Tarlton* answered thus:

Yes Sir, and I tak't in no scorne,
For many land there, yet misse of the horne.

## How *Tarlton* fought with Blacke *Dauie*,

NOt long since lived a little swaggerer, called blacke Dauie, who would at Sword and Buckler fight with any gentleman or other, for 12. pence: he being hired to draw vpon Tarlton, for breaking a iest vpon huffin Kate, a puncke as men tearmed her: one euening Tarlton comming forth at the Court-gate, being at Whitehal, and walking toward the Tilt-yard, this Dauie immediatly drew vpon Tarlton: who on the sudden, though amazed, drew likewise, and inquired the cause, which Dauie denied, till they had fought a bout or two: Tarlton couragiously got within him, and taking him in his armes, threw him into the Tilt-yard, who falling vpon his nose, broke it extreamely, that euer after he snuffled in the head; poore Dauie lying all that night in the Tilt-yard, expecting the doores to be opened, came forth, and at the Barber-surgeons told of this bloody combat, and the occasion of it was (quoth hee) because Tarlton being in a Tauerne in the compante of this damnable Cockatrice huffing Kate, called for wine: but she told him that without he would burne it, she would not drinke. No quoth Tarlton, it shal be burnt, for thou canst burn it without fire: as how sir: (quoth she) marry thus, take the Cup in thine hand & I will tell thee: So he filling the cup in her hand, said it was burnt sufficiently in so fiery a place: she perceiuing her selfe so flouted, hyred me to be her Champion to reuenge her quarrell.

## How *Tarlton* answered the Watchmen comming from the Court.

TArlton hauing plaied before the Queen, till one a clock at mionight, comming homewards, one of them espied him,

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him, calling him, ſirra, what art thou? a woman, ſayes Tarlton: nay that is lie, ſaith the Watchmen, women haue no ſuch beards: Tarlton replied, if I ſhould haue ſaid a man, that you know to be true, and would haue bidden mee tell you that you know not, therefore I ſayd a Woman, and ſo I am all woman, hauing pleaſed the Quéene, being a Woman: Well ſirra ſayes another, I preſent the Quéene: then am I a woman indéed ſaies Tarlton as well as you, for you haue a beard as well as I, and truly Miſtris Annis, my buſke is not done yet, when will yours? leaue thy gybing fellow, ſaith the Watch; the Quéens will is that whoſoeuer is taken without dores after ten a clocke, ſhall be committed, and now it is paſt one: commit all ſuch ſayes Tarlton, for if it be paſt one a clocke, it will not be ten this eight houres: with that one lifts vp his Lanthorne, and looks him in the face, and knew him: indéed M. Tarlton you haue more wit then all we, for it is true that ten was before one, but now one is before ten, it is true quoth Tarlton, Watchmen had wont to haue more wit, but for want of ſléepe they are turned fooles: ſo Tarlton ſtole from them, and they to ſéeme wiſe went home to bed.

*Tarltons* anſwere to a Courtier.

TArlton being at the Court all night, in the morning he met a great Courtier comming from his Chamber, who eſpying Tarlton, ſaid: Good morrow Maſter Didimus and Tridimus: Tarlton being ſomewhat abaſhed, not knowing the meaning thereof, ſayd: Sir, I vnderſtand you not, expound I pray you: quoth the Courtier Didimus and Tridimus, is a foole and a knaue: you ouer-load me replyed Tarlton, for my backe cannot beare both, therefore take you the one, and I will take the other: take you the knaue, and I will carry the foole with me.

# Tarltons Iests.

## *Tarltons* quipe for a yong Courtier.

THere was a yong Gentleman in the Court, that had first lyen with the Mother, and after with the Daughter, and hauing so done, asked Tarlton what it resembled: quoth he, as if you should first haue eaten the Hen, and after the Chicken.

## *Tarltons* answere to a Noblemans question.

THere was a Nobleman that asked Tarlton what he thought of Souldiers in time of peace? Marry quoth he, they are like Chimneyes in Summer.

## *Tarltons* Iest to an vnthriftie Courtier.

THere was an vnthriftie Gallant belonging to the Court that had borrowed fiue pounds of Tarlton, but hauing lost it at Dice, hee sent his man to Tarlton to borrow fiue pounds more, by the same token he owed him already fiue pounds: pray tell your Master, quoth Tarlton, that if he will send me the token, I will send him the money: for who deceiues me once, God forgiue him: If twice, God forgiue him: but if thrice, God forgiue him, but not me, because I could not beware.

## How *Tarlton* flouted two Gallants.

TArlton being in a merry vaine, as he walked in the great Hall in Grénwitch, he met my old Lord Chamberlain, going betwéene two fantasticke gallants, & cryed aloud vnto him, my Lord, my Lord, you goe in great danger: whereat amazed, hee askt whereof: of drowning (quoth Tarlton) were it not for those two bladders vnder ech of your armes.



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# Tarltons *ſound Cittie Ieſts.*

## *Tarltons* Ieſt of a red face.

TO an Ordinary in the White Friers, where Gentlemen vſed, by reaſon of extraordinarie dyet, to this Tarlton often frequented, as well to continue acquaintance, as to pleaſe his appetite: it chanced ſo vpon a time (eſpecially) being ſet amongſt the Gentlemen and Gallants, they enquired of him why melancholy had got the vpper-hand of his mirth, to which he ſaid little, but with a ſquint eie, as cuſtom had made him hare-eied, he lookt for a Ieſt to make them merry; at laſt he eſpyed one that ſate on his left ſide, which had a very red face, hee being a very great Gentleman (which was all one to Tarlton) he preſently in great haſt called his Hoaſt: who do I ſerue my Hoaſt? quoth Tarlton, the Quænes Maieſtie, replied the good man of the houſe: how happens it then quoth Tarlton, that to her Maieſties diſgrace, you dare make me a companion with Seruingmen, clapping my Lord Shandoyes Cullisance vpon my ſleeue, looking at the Gentleman with the red face, me thinks quoth he, it ſits like the Sarazens head without Newgate: the Gentlemans Salamanders face burnt like Ætna for anger, the reſt laughed heartily: in the end all inraged, the Gentleman ſwore to fight with him at the next meeting.

## A ſodaine and dangerous fray, twixt a Gentleman and *Tarlton*, which he put off with a Ieſt.

AS Tarlton & others paſſed along Fleetſtreet, hee eſpied a ſpruce yong gallant, blacke of complexion, with long haire hanging downe ouer his eares, and his beard of the

Italian

Italian cut, in white Satten, very quaintly cut, and his body ſo ſtiffe ſtarcht, that he could not bend himſelfe any way for no gold: Tarlton, ſéeing ſuch a wonder comming, trips before him, and méeting this gallant tooke the wall of him, knowing that one ſo proud, at leaſt looked for the prerogatiue. The gallant ſcorning that a Player ſhould take the wall, or ſo much indigniſie him, turnes himſelfe, and preſently drew his Rapier, Tarlton drew likewiſe: The Gentleman fell to it roundly, but Tarlton in his owne defence, compaſſing and trauerſing his ground, gaped with a wide mouth, whereat the people laughed: the Gentleman pauſing, enquired why he gaped ſo? O Sir ſaies he, in hope to ſwallow you, for by my troth, you ſéeme to me like a prune in a Meſſe of white Broth: at this the people parted them, the Gentleman noting his mad humour, went his way well contented, for he knew not how to amend it.

## *Tarltons* Ieſt of a Pippin.

AT the Bull in Biſhopſgate ſtréet, where the Quéenes Plaiers oftentimes played: Tarlton comming on the Stage, one from the Gallerie threw a Pippin at him, Tarlton toke vp the Pip, & looking on it made this ſodaine ieſt.

Pip in or noſe in, chuſe you whether,
Put yours in, ere I put in the other:
Pippin you haue put in, then for my grace,
Would I might put your noſe in another place.

## A Ieſt of an Apple hitting *Tarlton* on the face.

TArlton hauing flouted the fellow for his Pippin which he threw, he thought to be méet with Tarlton at length, ſo in the Play Tarltons part was to trauell, who knéeling downe to aſke his Father bleſſing: the fellow threwe an Apple at him, which hit him on the chéeke: Tarlton taking vp the Apple made this Ieſt.



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Gentlemen, this fellow with his face of Mapple.
In ſtead of a Pippin hath throwne me an Apple:
But as for an Apple he hath caſt a Crab,
So in ſtead of an honeſt woman God hath ſent him a Drab.

The people laughed heartily, for he had a Meane to his Wife.

## How *Tarlton* and one in the Gallerie fell out.

IT chanced that in the midſt of a Play, after long erpectation for Tarlton, (being much deſired of the people) at length he came forth: where at his entrance, one in the gallerie pointed his finger at him, ſaying to a friend that had neuer ſéene him, that is he: Tarlton to make ſport at the leaſt occaſion giuen him, and ſéeing the man point with one finger, he in loue againe held vp two fingers: the captious fellow iealous of his wife (for he was maried) and becauſe a Player did it, tooke the matter more hainouſly, and aſkt him why hee made Hornes at him: No quoth Tarlton, they be fingers:

For there is no man which in loue to mee
Lends me one finger, but he ſhall haue three.

No, no, ſayes the fellow, you gaue me the hornes: true ſaies Tarlton, for my fingers are tipt with nailes which are like hornes, and I muſt make a ſhew of that which you are ſure of: this matter grew ſo, that the more he medled, the more it was for his diſgrace: wherefore the ſtanders by counſelled him to depart, both he and his hornes, leſt his cauſe grew deſperate: ſo the poore fellow plucking his Hat ouer his eyes, went his wayes.

## How Fiddlers fidled away *Tarltons* apparell.

IT chanced that one Fancie and Nancie, a Muſition in London, vſed often with their Boyes to viſite Tarlton, when he dwelt in Gracious-ſtréet, at the ſigne of the Saba,

a Tauern, he being one of their beſt friends or benefactors, by reaſon of old acquaintance: to requite which, they came one ſummers morning to play him the Hunt'vp with ſuch Muſicke as they had: Tarlton, to requite them would open his Chamber dooze, and for their paines would giue them Malkadine: which a Cony-catcher noting, and ſeeing Tarlton come foorth in his ſhirt and night-gowne to drinke with theſe Muſitions, the while this nimble fellow ſkept in, and toke Tarltons apparell which euery day he wore, thinking that if he were eſpied to turne it to a ieſt, but it paſt for currant and he goes his waies: Not long after Tarlton returned to his Chamber, and looked for his clothes, but they were ſafe enough from him. The next day this was noyſed abroad, and one in the mockage threw him this Theam, he playing then at the Curtaine.

*Tarlton* I will tell thee a ieſt,
Which after turned to earneſt:
One there was as I heard ſay,
Who in his ſhirt heard Muſicke play,
While all his clothes were ſtolne away.

Tarlton ſmiling at this, anſwered on the ſudden thus:

That's certaine, Sir, it is no lye,
That ſame one in truth was I:
When that the theefe ſhall pine and lacke,
Then ſhall I haue cloathes to my backe:
And I together with my fellowes,
May ſee him ride to *Tiburne* Gallowes.

## Of *Tarlton* and a Begger.

THere was a poore Begger (but a conceited fellow) who ſeeing Tarlton at his doore, aſkt ſomthing of him for gods cakſe. Tarlton putting his hand in his pocket, gaue him two pence inſtead of a peny, at which Tarlton made this Rime:



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Of all other Beggers most happy thou art,
For to thee my hand is better then my heart.

Quoth the Begger.

True it is Master, as it chanceth now,
The better for me, and the worse for you.

## How *Tarlton* deceiued a Doctor of Phisicke.

TArlton to satisfie the humors of certaine Gentlemen, his familiar acquaintance, went about for to try the skill of a simple Doctor of Phisicke, that dwelt not farre from Islington, and thus it was: hee tooke a faire Urinall, and filled it halfe full of good wine, and boze it to this doctor, saying, it was a sicke mans water: who viewed it and tossing it vp and downe, as though he had great knowledge: quoth he, the patient whose water it is, is full of grosse humors, and hath need of purging, and to be let some ten ounces of blood. No you Dunce replyed Tarlton, it is good pisse, and with that drunke it off, and threw the Urinall at his head.

## How *Tarlton* frighted a Country fellow.

TArlton passing through London, by chance hee heard a simple Country fellow in an Ale-house, calling for a Kingstone pot of Ale, stept into him and threatned to accuse him of treason, saying: Sirra, I haue séene and tasted of a penny pot of Ale, and haue found good of the price, but of a Kingstone coine I neuer heard, therefore it is some counterfait, and I must know how thou camest by it: hereupon the Countrey fellow was driuen into such a maze, that out of doores he got, and tooke him to his héeles, as though wildfire had followed him.

How

# Tarltons Iests.

## How *Tarlton* was deceiued by his wife in London.

TArlton being merrily disposed, as his wife and he sate together, he said vnto her, Kate answere me to one question without a lye, and take this crowne of gold: which she tooke on condition, that if she lost, to restore it backe againe. Quoth Tarlton, am I a Cuckold or no Kate? Whereat she answered not a word, but stood silent: notwithstanding he vrged her many waies: Tarlton seeing she would not speak, askt his gold againe: why quoth she, haue I made any lye? no sayes Tarlton: why then goodman foole I haue won the wager: Tarlton mad with anger, made this Rime:

As women in speech can reuile a man,
So can they in silence beguile a man.

## One askt *Tarlton* what Countrey man the Diuell was.

IN Carter-lane dwelt a merry Cobler, who being in company with Tarlton, askt him what Countrey man the diuell was: quoth Tarlton, a Spaniard; for Spaniards like the Diuell, trouble the whole world.

## A Cheese-mongers question to *Tarlton*.

IN the time of Scarsitie, a simple Cheesemonger hearing Tarlton commended for his quick wit, came vnto him, and asked him why he thought Cheese and Butter to be so deere: Tarlton answered, because Wood and Coles are so deere, for Butter and Cheese a man may eate without a fire.

## *Tarltons* answere to a rich Londiner.

TArlton meeting a rich Londiner, fell into talke about the Bishop of Peterborough, highly praising his bounty

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to his seruants, his liberalitie to strangers, his great Hospitalitie and Charitie to the poore. He doth well sayes the rich man, for what he hath is his but during his life. Why quoth Tarlton, for how many liues haue you your goods?

## How *Tarlton* gaue away his dinner.

AS Tarlton and his wife sate at dinner, his wife being displeased with him, and thinking to crosse him, shee gaue away halfe of his meat vnto a poore Beggar, saying, take this for my other husbands sake. Whereupon Tarlton tooke all that was left, and likewise bad the poore fellow to pray for his other wifes soule.

## *Tarltons* answere to a Boy in Rime.

THere was a crackrope Boy, méeting Tarlton in London stréet, sung this rime vnto Tarlton.

Woeworth thee *Tarlton*,
That euer thou wast borne:
Thy wife hath made thee Cuckold,
And thou must weare the horne.

Tarlton presently answered him in Extempore.

What and if I be (Boy)
I am nere the worse:
Shee keepes me like a Gentleman,
With money in my purse.

## How *Tarlton* bid himselfe to dinner to my Lord Mayors.

A Iest came in Tarltons head where to dine, and thought he, in all that a man does, let him ayme at the fairest, for

for sure if I bid my selfe any where this day, it shall be to my Lord Maiors: and vpon this, goes to the Counter and entred his action against my Lord Maior, who was presently told of it, and sends for him. Tarlton waits dinner time, and then comes, who was admitted presently. Master Tarlton, sayes my Lord Maior, haue you entred an action against me in the Poultry Counter? My Lord, sayes Tarlton, haue you entred an action against me in Woodstréet Counter? Not I in troth, saies my Lord. No saies Tarlton, he was a villaine that told me so then: but if it be not so, forgiue me this fault my Lord, and I will neuer offend in the next: but in the end he begins to sweare, how he will bee reuenged on him that mockt him, and flings out in a rage, But my Lord sayd, stay M. Tarlton, dine with me, and no doubt but after dinner you will be better minded. I will try that my Lord, saies Tarlton, and if it alter mine anger, both mine enemie & I will thanke you together for this curtesie.

## *Tarltons* Iest of a box on the eare.

ONe that fell out with his friend, méets him in the stréet, and calling him into a corner, gaue him a boxe on the eare, and fell him, getting him gone, and neuer told wherefore he did so: which Tarlton beholding, raised vp the fellow, and askt him the reason of their suddaine falling out? can you tell Sir said the fellow, for by my troth as yet I cannot? Well said Tarlton, the more foole you, for had I such féeling of the cause, my wit would remember the iniurie, but many men are gosslings, the more they féele the lesse they conceiue.

## *Tarltons* Iest to two Taylors.

TArlton méeting two Tailors (friends of his) in the euening, in mirth cryes, who goes there? A man answered a Taylor: How many is there? one: Yea said Tarlton, two said the other Taylor: then you say true, said Tarlton: for



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two Taylors goes to a man. But before they parted, they sort Tarlton, at the Castle in Paternoster Row, that Tarlton confest them two Taylors to be honest men: so what they spent in the purse they got in the person: comming but one by Tarltons account, they returned two: but Tarlton comming one, returned lesse by his wit, for that was shrunk in the whetting.

How *Tarlton* iested at his wife.

TArlton and his wife keeping an Ordinarie in Paternoster Row, was bidden out to Supper, and because he was a man noted, she would not goe with him in the street, but intreats him to kepe one side and she another, which he consented to: but as he went he would cry out to her and say, Turne that way wife, and anon on this side wife: so the people flockt the more to laugh at them, but his wife more then mad angry, goes backe againe, and almost forswore his company.

How *Tarlton* committed a Rakers horse to Ward.

WHen Tarlton dwelt in Gracious street, at a Tauerne at the signe of the Saba, he was chosen Scauenger: and often the Ward complained of his slacknes in keping the streets cleane: so on a time when the Cart came, he asked the Raker, why he did his businesse so slackly, Sir said he, my fore-horse was in the fault, who being let blood and drencht yesterday, I durst not labour him: sir said Tarlton, your horse shall smart for it, and so leads him to the Counter, which the Raker laught at, and without his horse did his worke with the rest, thinking Tarltons humor was to iest, and would returne him his horse againe anon: but when that anon came, he was faine to pay all his fees of the prison, as directly as if he himselfe had bene there: for if Tarlton had committed the maister, the busines had not gone forward, therefore the horse was in prison for the Maister.

How

## How *Tarlton* made *Armin* his adopted sonne to succeed him.

TArlton keeping a Tauerne in Gracious street, hee let it to another, who was indebted to Armins Master, a Gold smith in Lumbard street: yet he himselfe had a Chamber in the same house. And this Armin being then a wag came often thither to demaund his Masters money, which hee sometimes had, and sometimes had not: in the end the man growing poore, told the boy he had no money for his Master, and he must beare with him. The mans name being Charles, Armin made this verse, writing it with chalke on a waine-scot:

O world how wilt thou lie, is this *Charles* the great?
that I denie:
Indeed *Charles* the great before,
But now *Charles* the lesse, being poore.

Tarlton comming into the roome reading it, and partly acquainted with the boyes humor, comming often thither for his M. money, tooke a piece of chalke, & writ this rime by it.

A wag thou art, none can preuent thee,
And thy desert shall content thee:
Let me diuine, as I am, so in time thou'lt be the same.
My adopted sonne therefore be,
To enioy my Clownes suite after me.

And see how it fell out: the Boy reading this, so loued Tarlton after, that regarding him with more respect, vsed to his playes, and fell in a league with his humour, and priuate practise brought him to present playing, and at this houre performes the same, where at the Globe on the Bancke-side men may see him.

## *Tarltons* greeting with *Bankes* his horse.

THere was one Bankes (in the time of Tarlton) who serued the Earle of Eſſex, & had a horse of strange qualities:



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and being at the Croſſe-keyes in Gracious ſtréte, getting money with him (as he was mightily reſorted to:) Tarlton then (with his fellowes) playing at the Bell by, came into the Croſſe-keyes amongſt many people) to ſée faſhions: which Bankes perceiuing (to make the people laugh) ſayes Signior (to his Horſe) goe fetch mee the beſt foole in the company, the Jade comes immediatly, and with his mouth drawes Tarlton forth: Tarlton with merry words ſaid nothing, but God a mercy Horſe: in the end, Tarlton ſéeing the people laugh ſo, was angry inwardly, and ſaid, Sir, had I power of your horſe, as you haue, I would doe more then that. Where ere it be ſaid Bankes (to pleaſe him) I will charge him to do it: then ſaies Tarlton, charge him to bring me the beſt whore-maſter in this company. He ſhall ſaies Bankes: Signior ſaies he, bring M. Tarlton heere the beſt Whoremaſter in the company: the Horſe leades his maſter to him: then God a mercy Horſe indéed, ſayes Tarlton: the people had much adoe to kéepe peace, but Bancks & Tarlton had like to ſquarde, and the horſe by to giue ayme: but euer after it was a by-word through London, God a mercy horſe, and is to this day.

## An excellent Ieſt of *Tarlton* ſuddenly ſpoken.

AT the Bull at Biſhopſ-gate was a play of Henry the fift, wherein the Judge was to take a bore on the eare, and becauſe he was abſent that ſhould take the blow: Tarlton himſelfe (euer forward to pleaſe) toke vpon him to play the ſame Judge, beſides his owne part of the Clowne: and Knell then playing Henry the fift, hit Tarlton a ſound bore indéed, which made the people laugh the more, becauſe it was he: but anone the Judge goes in, & immediatly Tarlton (in his Clownes clothes) comes out, and aſkes the Actors what newes? O faith one, hadſt thou béene here, thou ſhouldſt haue ſéene Prince Henry hit the Judge a terrible bore on the eare: What man, ſaid Tarlton, ſtrike a Judge?

It is true yfaith, said the other: no other like, said Tarlton, and it could not be but terrible to the Iudge, when the report so terrifies me, that me thinkes the blow remaines still on my cheeke, that it burnes againe. The people laught at this mightily, and to this day I haue heard it commended for rare: but no maruaile, for he had many of these. But I would see our Clownes in these dayes doe the like, no I warrant ye, and yet they thinke well of themselues too.

## *Tarltons* Iest with a Boy in the street.

A Wag-halter Boy met Tarlton in the street, and said: Maister Tarlton who liues longest? Marry Boy, sayes Tarlton, he that dies latest: and why die men so fast, said the Boy? because they want breath, said Tarlton: no rather said the Boy, because their time is come: then thy time is come, said Tarlton, see who comes yonder: Who? said the Boy: Marry said Tarlton, Bull the hangman: or one that would willingly be thy hangman: Nay, hang me then, if I employ him at this time, said the Boy. Well said Tarlton, then thou wilt be hanged by thy owne confession, and so they parted.

## A Iest of *Tarlton*, prouing Mustard to haue wit.

TArlton keeping an Ordinarie in Pater-noster row, and sitting with Gentlemen to make them merry, would approue Mustard, (standing before them) to haue wit: how so sayes one? It is like a witty shold, meeting another shold, knowing that shold will shold, begins to shold first, so saies he, the Mustard being lickt vp, and knowing that you will bite it, begins to bite you first: Ile trie that saies a Gull by, and the Mustard so tickled him, that his eyes watered: how now sayes Tarlton, does my Iest sauour? I, saies the Gull, and bite too: if you had had better wit, sayes Tarlton, you would haue bit first: so then conclude with me, that dumbe



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vnfæling Mullard, hath moze wit then a talking vnfæling foole as you are. Some were pleased and some were not, but all Tarltons care was taken (foz his resolution was such euer) before he talkt any Iest.

## How *Tarlton* tooke Tobacco at the first comming vp of it.

TArlton (as other Gentlemen vsed) at the first comming vp of Tobacco, did take it moze foz fashions sake then otherwise, and being in a rowme, set betweene two men ouercome with wine, and they neuer sæing the like, wondzed at it, and sæing the vapour come out of Tarltons nose, cried out, fire, fire, and thzew a cup of wine in Tarltons face: Make no moze stirre quoth Tarlton, the fire is quenched, if the Sheriffes come it will turne to a fine; as the custome is. And dzinking that againe, fie sayes the other, what a stincke it makes, I am almost poisoned: If it offend, sayes Tarlton, lets euery one take a little of the smell, and so the sauour will quickly goe: but Tobacco whiffes made them leaue him to pay all.

# *Tarltons* prettie Countrie Iests.

## *Tarltons* wit betweene a Bird and a Woodcocke.

IN the Citie of Gloceſter, Maſter Bird of the Chappell met with Tarlton, who ioyfull to regréet other, went to viſit his friends: amongſt the reſt, M. Bird of the Quéens Chappell viſited Maſter Woodcock of the Colledge, where méeting, many frindly ſpéeches paſt, amongſt which, M. Woodcocke challenged M. Bird of kin: who muſed that he was of his affinitie and hee neuer knew it: yes ſayes M. Woodcocke, euery Woodcocke is a Bird, therefore it muſt néeds be ſo. Lord, Sir, ſayes Tarlton, you are wide, for though euery Woodcocke be a Bird, yet euery Bird is not a Woodcocke. So M. Woodcocke like a Woodcocke bit his lip, and mum budged was ſilent.

## *Tarltons* Ieſt of a Gridiron.

WHile the Quéens Plaiers lay in Worceſter Citie to get money, it was his cuſtome oft to ſing extempory of Theams giuen him: amongſt which they were appoynted to play the next day: now one fellow of the City amongſt the reſt, that ſéemed quaint of conceit, to lead other youths with his fine wit, gaue out that the next day hee would giue him a Theam, to put him to a non plus: diuers of his friends acquainted with the ſame, erpected ſome rare conceit: Well, the next day came, and my gallant gaue him his inuention in two lines, which was this this:

Me thinkes it is a thing vnfit.
To ſee a Gridiron turne the ſpit.

The

The people laughed at this, thinking his wit knew no answere thereunto, which angered Tarlton exceedingly, and presently with a smile looking about, when they expected wonders, he put it off thus:

Me thinkes it is a thing vnfit,
To see an Asse haue any wit.

The people hooted for ioy, to see the Theame-giuer dasht, who like a dog with his taile betweene his legs, left the place: But such commendations Tarlton got, that hee supt with the Bailiffe that night, where my Theamer durst not come, although he were sent for, so much he vexed at that vnlookt for answere.

*Tarltons* answere in defence of his flat nose.

I Remember I was once at a Play in the Country, where as Tarltons vse was, the Play being done, every one so pleased to throwe vp his Theame: amongst all the rest, one was read to this same effect, word by word.

*Tarlton*, I am one of thy friends, and none of thy foes,
Then I prethee tell how thou cam'st by thy flat nose:
Had I beene present at that time on those bankes,
I would haue layd my short sword ouer his long shankes.

Tarlton mad at this question, as it was his propertie sooner to take such a matter ill then well, very suddenly returned him this answere:

Friend or foe, if thou wilt needs know, marke me well,
With parting dogs & beares, then by the ears, this chance fel:
But what of that? though my nose be flat, my credit to saue,
Yet very well, I can by the smell,
scent an honest man from a knaue.

*Tarltons*

# Tarltons Ieſts.

## *Tarltons* Ieſt of a Briſtowman.

VVHen the Quæenes Players were reſtrained in Summer, they trauailed downe to S. Iames his Faire, at Briſtowe, where they were worthily entertained both of Londoners, and thoſe Citizens: it happened that a wealthy Citizen, called M. Sunbanke, one morning ſecretly married his Maid; but not ſo ſecret, but it was blowne abroad: that morning, Tarlton and others, walking in the Faire to viſit his familiar friends of London, and being in company of Briſtow men, they did ſée M. Sunbancke comming, who had this propertie with his necke, not to ſtirre it any way, but to turne body & all: it chanced at the Faire end, he ſtood to piſſe againſt a wall: to whom Tarlton came, and clapping him on the ſhoulder, God giue you ioy of your marriage, ſaies he: M. Sunbanke being taken piſſing againſt the wall, would haue lookt backe to thanke him, and ſuddainly turnes about body and all, in the view of many, and ſhewed all: which ſo abaſht him, that aſhamed he toke ire to a Tauerne, proteſting that he had rather haue ſpent ten pound: ſure ſayd the Vintner, the fault is in your necke, who will not turne without the bodies aſſiſtance, and not in M. Tarlton: Call you him M. Tarlton, ſaies M. Sunbancke? I Sir, ſaies the Vintner, he is the Quæns Ieſter: he may be whoſe Ieſter he will be, but this Ieſt agrées not with me at this time.

## A Ieſt broken of *Tarlton* by a Country Gentleman.

IN the Country where the Quæns Players were accepted into a Gentlemans houſe: the Waggon vnloading of the apparell, the Waggoner comes to Tarlton, & doth deſire him to ſpeake to the Steward for his horſes: I will ſayes he, and comming to the Steward, Sir, ſaies Tarlton, where ſhall our Horſes ſpend the time? The Gentleman looking

at Tarlton at that question, suddenly answered, if it please you, or them, let them walke a turne or two: or there is a faire Garden, let them play a game or two at bowles in the Alley, and departs thence about his other businesse. Tarlton commending the suddaine wit of the steward, said little: but my Steward not quiet, tels to the Gentlewomen aboue, how he had driuen Tarlton to a nonplus with a iest: whereat they all did laugh heartily: which a Seruingman loving Tarlton well, came and told him as much. Tarlton to adde fuell to the fire, and loath to rest thus put off with a iest, goes and gets two of the horses into the Garden, and turns them into the Bowling Alley, who with their héles made hauocke, being the Gentlemans only pastime: The Ladies aboue from a window, séeing horses in the Garden Alley, call the Knight, who cries out to Tarlton, Fellow, what meanest thou? nothing Sir, saies he, but two of my horses are at seuen vp, for a pecke of Prouender, a foolish match that I made: now they being in play at bowles, run, run: your steward may come after and crie rub, rub: at which, though they smiled, yet the steward had no thankes for his labour, to set the horses to such an exercise: and they could not blame Tarlton, who did but as he was bidden: but by this Iest Oats and Hay, stable-roome, and all, was plenty.

## How *Tarlton* made one of his company vtterly forsweare drunkennesse.

AT Salisbury Tarlton & his fellowes were to play before the Maior & his brethren: but one of his company, a young man was so drunke that he could not: whereat Tarlton as mad angry, as he was mad drunke, claps me on his legs a huge payre of boults: the fellow dead asléep felt nothing: when all was done, they conuaied him to the Jayle on a mans backe, and intreated the Jayler to doe God good seruice, and let him lie there till he waked. While they were about their sport the fellow waked, and finding himselfe in durance, and the Jayle hung round with bolts and shakels,

he

he began to blesse himselfe, and thought sure in his drunkennes he had done some mischiefe: with that he called to know, but none came to him, then he thought verely his fault was capitall, and that hee was close prisoner: by and by comes the Keeper, and moaned him, that one so yong should come to so shamefull a death as hanging: anone, another comes, and another with the like, which further put him in a puzzle: but at last comes Tarlton and others, intreating the Keeper, yet if it might be, that they might see their fellow ere they went, but hee very hardly was intreated, but at length the poore drunken Signior cal'd out for them: in they come. Oh Tom, sayes Tarlton, hard was thy hap in drunkennesse to murder this honest man, and our hard hap is, to have it reported any of our company is hangd for it. O God, O God saies the fellow, is my fault so great? then commend me to all my friends. Well, short tale to make, the fellow forswore drunkennesse if he could escape, and by as cunning a wile to his thinking, they got him out of prison by an escape, and sent him to London before, who was not a litle glad he was gone: but see how this Iest wrought, by little and little the fellow left his excessive drinking, and in time altered his desire of drunkennesse.

## How *Tarlton* saued his head from cutting off.

TArlton vpon a time being in the Countrie, & lodging in an homely Inne, during which time there was a gentleman dwelling in the same towne, somewhat frantick and distraught of his wits: which mad man on a suddaine rusht into Tarltons bed-chamber with his sword drawne, and finding him there in bed, would haue slain him: saying, villain, were it not valiantly done to strike off thy knaues head at one blowe? Tarlton answered, tut sir, thats nothing with your worship to do, you can as easily strike off two heads at one blow as one: wherefore, if you please Ile go downe and call vp another, and so you may strike off both our heads at once: the mad-man believed him, and so let him slip away.



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## How *Tarlton* escaped imprisonment.

TArlton having béene dominéering very late one Night, with two of his friends, and comming homewards along Cheapside, the watch being then set: Maister Constable asked, who goes there? three merry men, quoth Tarlton: that is not sufficient, what are you, quoth M. Constable? why saies Tarlton, one of vs is an eye-maker, and the other a light maker: what sayst thou knaue, doest mocke me? the one is an eye-maker, the other a light maker, which two properties belong vnto God onely: commit these blasphemers quoth the Constable: Nay, I pray you good M. Constable be good in your Office, I will approue what I haue sayd to be true. If thou canst, sayes the Constable, you shall passe, otherwise you shall be all three punished. Why quoth Tarlton, this fellow is an eye-maker, because a Spectacle maker, and this other a maker of light, because a Chandler, that makes your darkest night as light as your Lanthorne. The Constable séeing them so pleasant, was well contented, the rest of the Watchmen laughed, and Tarlton with his two companions went home quietly.

## How *Tarlton* deceiued a Countrey wench.

THe Quéenes Plaiers trauelling into the West country to play, and lodging in a little village, some ten miles from Bristow, in which village dwelt a pretty nut-browne Lasse, to whom Tarlton made proffer of marriage, protesting that he came from London, purposely to marry her: the simple Maide being proud, to be beloued by such a one, whom she knew to be the Quéenes man, without more intreaty yélded, & being both at the Church together, and M. Parson ready to performe his dutie, and comming to the words of I Richard take thée Ioane: nay, stay good Maister Parson, I will goe and call my fellowes, and come to you

againe:

againe: ſo going out of the Church in haſte, returned at leiſure; for hauing his horſe ready ſadled, hee rode toward Brikkow, and by the way told his fellowes of his ſucceſſe with his wench.

## How *Tarlton* went to kill Crowes.

IT chanced vpon a time, as Tarlton went forth with a birding péece into the fields to kill Crowes, hée eſpied a Daw ſitting in a Trée, at which he meant to ſhoot; but at the ſame inſtant, there came one by, to whom he ſpake in this manner: Sir, quoth he, yonder I ſée a Daw, which I will ſhoot at if ſhée ſit: if ſhée ſit, ſaid the other, then ſhe is a Daw indéed: but quoth Tarlton, if ſhe ſit not, what is ſhe then? Marry quoth the other, a Daw alſo: at which words ſhée immediatly flew away: whereupon Tarlton ſpake merrily in a Rime, as followeth:

Whether a Daw ſit, or whether a Daw flie,
Whether a Daw ſtand, or whether a Daw lie,
Whether a daw creeke, or whether a Daw crie,
In what caſe ſoeuer a Daw perſeuer,
A Daw is a Daw, and a Daw ſhall be euer.

## How a poore Beggerman ouer-reached *Tarlton* by his wit.

AS Tarlton vpon a day ſate at his owne dore, to whom came a poore old man, & begged a penny for the Lords ſake, whereupon Tarlton hauing no ſingle money about him, aſkt the begger what money he had, no more money maſter but one ſingle penny. Tarlton being merrily diſpoſed, called for this penny, and hauing receiued it, gaue it to his boy to fetch a pot of Ale, whereat the Begger grew blancke, and began to gather vp his wits how to get it againe: the pot of Ale for the Beggers penny being brought, he proferred to



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drinke to the begger: nay ſtay awhile Maſter, quoth the begger, the vſe is where I was borne, that he that paies for the drinke, muſt drinke firſt: thou ſaiſt well quoth Tarlton, goe to, Drinke to me then: Whereupon the Begger tooke the Pot, ſaying, here Maſter I drinke to you, (and therewithall dranke off euery droppe) now Maiſter, if you will pledge me, ſend for it as I haue done: Tarlton ſéeing himſelfe ſo ouer-reacht, greatly commended the Beggers wit, and withall in recompence thereof, gaue him a Teaſter: with that the Begger ſaid, that he would moſt truely pray to God for him: no anſwered Tarlton, I pray thée pray for thy ſelfe, for I take no ſtory for Almes-deds.

## Of *Tarltons* pleaſant anſwere to a Gallant, by the high-way ſide.

IT was Tarltons occaſion another time to ride into Sukfolke, being furniſhed with a very leane large horſe: and by the way a luſtie gallant met him, and in mockage, aſked him, what a yard of his horſe was worth: marry ſir, quoth Tarlton, I pray you alight and lift vp my horſes taile, and they in that ſhop will tell you the price of a yard.

## How *Tarlton* would haue drowned his wife.

VPon a time, Tarlton and his wife (as paſſengers) came ſailing from Southampton towards London, a mightie ſtorme aroſe, and endangered the Ship, whereupon the Captaine thereof, charged euery man to throw into the ſea the beſt thing he could beſt ſpare, to the end to lighten ſomewhat the Ship: Tarlton, that had his wife there, offered to throw her ouer-board, but the company reſcued her, and being aſked wherefore he meant ſo to do: he anſwered ſhé was the beſt thing I haue, and I can beſt ſpare her.

How

# Tarltons Iests.

## How *Tarlton* made his Will and Testament.

OF late there was a Gentleman liuing in England, that whersoeuer he dined, would of euery dish conuey a modicum thereof into his Gowneſléeue: which Gentleman being vpon a time at dinner at a Gentlemans house in the Country, there he vſed his aforeſaid quality in the cõpany of M. Tarlton, who perceiuing it, ſaid thus vnto the company: My maſters, I am now determined before you all, to make my laſt Will and Teſtament: and firſt, I bequeath my ſoule to God my creator, and my body to be buried in the ſléeue of yonder Gentlemans Gowne: and with that ſtepping to him, he turned vp the Gowne ſléeue, whereout here dropt a bird, and there a bird, with cheiſe of much other good chéere, hée ſtill ſhaking it, ſaying, I meant this ſléeue Gentleman, this ſléeue I meant.

## How *Tarlton* called a Gentleman Knaue by craft.

VVIthin a while after, as the ſame Gentleman and Tarlton paſſed through a fielde together, a Crow in a Tréé cryed, kaw, kaw: ſée yonder Tarlton, quoth the Gentleman, yonder Crow calleth thée knaue: no ſir (he anſwered) he beckens to your worſhip as the better man.

## *Tarltons* Ieſt of a Country wench.

TArlton going towards Hogſdon, met a Country maid comming to market, her Ware ſtumbling down ſhe fell ouer and ouer, ſhewing all that euer God ſent her, and then riſing vp againe, ſhe turned her round about vnto Maſter Tarlton, and ſaid, Gods body ſir, did you euer ſée the like before? No in good ſooth, quoth Tarlton, neuer but once in London.

How

# Tarltons Iests.

## How *Tarlton* deceiued an Inne-holder at Sandwich.

VPon a time when the Plaiers were put to ſilence, Tarlton and his boy frolickt ſo long in the Country, that all their money was gone, and being a great way from London, they knew not what to doe; but as want is the whetſtone of wit, Tarlton gathereth his conceit together, and practiſed a tricke to beare him vp to London without money, & thus it was: Vnto an Inne in Sandwich they went, and there lay for two daies at great charge, although he had no money to pay for the ſame: the third morning he bad his man go downe and male-content himſelfe before his Hoaſt and his Hoaſteſſe, & mombling ſay to himſelfe, Lord Lord, what a ſcalde maſter doe I ſerue, this it is to ſerue ſuch Seminary Prieſts and Ieſuits, now euen as I am an honeſt boy, Ile leaue him in the lurch, and ſhift for my ſelfe: here's a doe about penance and mortification, as though (forſooth) Chriſt hath not died enough for all: The boy mumbled out theſe his inſtructions ſo diſſembling, that it ſtrooke a iealouſie in the Inne-holders heart, that out of doubt his maſter was a Seminary Prieſt; whereupon he preſently ſent for the Conſtable, and told him all the foreſaid matter, and ſo went vp both together to attach Tarlton in his chamber, who purpoſely had ſhut himſelfe cloſe in, and betaken him to his knees, and to his croſſes, to make the matter ſeeme more ſuſpitious, which they eſpying through the Key-hole, made no more adoe, but in they ruſhed, and arreſted him for a Seminary Prieſt, diſcharged his ſcore, bore his, and his boyes charges vp to London, and there in hope to haue rich rewards, preſented him to M. Fleetwood, the old Recorder of London: but now marke the Ieſt; when the Recorder ſaw Tarlton, and knew him paſſing well, entertained him very courteouſly, and all to be ſwild the Inne-holder and his mate, and ſent them away with fleas in their eares: but when Tarlton ſaw himſelfe diſcharged out of their hands,